

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Lebanon
<b>Program Title:</b>	Improved Environmental Policies and Practices
<b>Pillar:</b>	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	268-005
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Planned FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$7,000,000 ESF
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$10,857,000 ESF
<b>Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$6,000,000 ESF
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	1998
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2006

**Summary:** This program aims to change the behavior and thinking of the Lebanese towards the environment by advocating policy reform and demonstrating environmentally sound and appropriate solutions to environmental problems at the national and local levels. Activities will capitalize on the initial success of and heightened demand for environmental conservation and health programs and will build on the achievements of the water policy program in water pricing policies and tariff strategies. Focusing on these areas, USAID is filling critical gaps that neither the Government of Lebanon (GOL) nor other donors are addressing. Specifically, this program is helping rural communities create healthier, environmentally friendly living conditions, and aiding the private sector and the GOL in assessing and managing water resources more efficiently.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

**FY 2005 Program:** Reduce, Prevent and Mitigate Pollution (\$7,000,000 ESF, \$10,857,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). These funds will be used to continue the existing waste management program in Lebanon's rural communities and to expand it to new areas specifically the Litani River Basin (West Bekaa). FY 2005 funds will be used to construct seven solid waste and 31 wastewater facilities that will benefit 203 communities (approximately 630,000 people). Funds will also be used for awareness and training programs targeting the beneficiary communities. As a result of these projects, it is estimated that municipalities will be able to generate an income of around \$34,000 per year from reuse sales of compost and recyclables. The USAID program aims to improve health and sanitation conditions in rural areas, as well as improve the quality of the streams and rivers where raw domestic sewage is being discharged in an uncontrolled manner. These activities provide cost effective, environmentally sound and appropriate solutions to solid waste and wastewater disposal problems facing rural communities. In many rural municipalities, these activities have emerged as the most viable alternative to large-scale and costly infrastructure schemes. Construction of the waste management facilities will be accompanied with activities to strengthen the management capabilities of the targeted municipalities and raise general awareness on proper waste disposal methods (sorting of the waste at the source). This would improve quality of the end product and ensure the commitment of the community towards the sustainable operation of the facilities. Four U.S. non-governmental organizations (NGOs) implement this activity: Young Men's Christian Association, Cooperative Housing Foundation, Mercy Corps International, and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association/Pontifical Mission. In addition, a U.S. Architect and Engineering company, Camp Dresser and McKee, is developing the design system for the additional waste management facilities that target the Litani River Basin. Companies that will undertake the construction will be identified in the last quarter of FY 2005.

**FY 2006 Program:** Reduce, Prevent and Mitigate Pollution (\$6,000,000 ESF). USAID will continue expanding the water policy program, as well as the waste management activities to cover the needs of all the country.

**Performance and Results:** Improve Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation:

The Lebanon Water Policy Program (LWPP) assistance at the regional and national level achieved significant results at the level of its three components: Technical, Policy, and Institutional. At the technical

and institutional level respectively, LWPP conducted a complete assessment of the South Lebanon Water and Wastewater Establishment (SLWWE) hydraulic assets and developed an investment plan that the Establishment can utilize for optimizing the use of its available resources and anticipating future expansions. In addition, it developed for the SLWWE a new modern organizational structure, a five-year Business Plan and a Financial Cost Recovery Model. These initiatives, unprecedented in Lebanon, will help the SLWWE develop a strategic vision for water systems improvement and tariff reform making it an eligible partner capable of attracting private sector investments. At the national policy level, the LWPP developed the Framework of the National Tariff Strategy and launched a campaign to promote a common vision on private sector participation in the water sector through five study tours to Jordan, Tunis, Morocco and the United States. The LWPP also coordinated 286 consultations and professional workshops.

At the end of its second year, the three other water establishments in the Lebanon specifically requested USAID to replicate the models adopted at the SLWWE for improving their financial and administrative structures. The surge in recent activity has inspired the Ministry of Energy and Water to include a Public Private Partnership (PPP) unit in its new organizational structure.

#### Reduce, Prevent And Mitigate Pollution:

The program ended its first year of implementation. The results achieved are acceptable. Six out of the 16 wastewater treatment facilities planned for FY 2004 were completed and started operating at the end of 2004. However, all the ten other targeted waste facilities have been initiated and are expected to be completed in mid 2005. The slow program start up was due to several factors. Municipal elections that took place in May 2004, lead to a deadlock situation whereby implementing NGOs had no partners to deal with as the Municipalities preparing for the election, refused to enter into any agreement pending the results of the elections. Following that, some of the new municipal boards had different development priorities and/or refused to provide financial contributions and commitments, or refused to accept the waste of other communities. At another level, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAS) are not being processed expeditiously by the Ministry of Environment to enable NGOs to start operating. Under this project, USAID is building the capacity of the local community to become capable of mobilizing its human and financial resources to sustain the waste management systems. Twelve awareness and training sessions targeting women, schools students, municipal boards, and communities at large were conducted this year.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Lebanon

268-005 Improved Environmental Policies and Practices	DA	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>		
Obligations	2,703	18,504
Expenditures	1,875	10,572
Unliquidated	828	7,932
<b>Fiscal Year 2004</b>		
Obligations	469	10,193
Expenditures	654	4,197
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>		
Obligations	3,172	28,697
Expenditures	2,529	14,769
Unliquidated	643	13,928
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	0	10,857
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>		
Obligations	0	7,000
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005</b>		
Obligations	0	17,857
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>		
Obligations	0	6,000
Future Obligations	0	18,000
Est. Total Cost	3,172	70,554